

SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY;

WITH THE

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

January 16 and 17, 1877.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:
COLONIZATION BUILDING, 450 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.
1877.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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1853. HON. JOHN H. B. LATROBE.

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1854. Rev. James C. Finley, Illinois.	1875. Rt. Rev. M. A. DeW. Howe, D. D., Pa.
1854. Hon. John F. Darby, Missouri.	1875. Samuel K. Wilson, Esq., N. J.
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1861. Hon. William E. Dodge, N. Y.	1877. Rev. J. F. Elder, D. D., New York.
1866. Hon. James R. Doolittle, Wis.	1877. Rev. W. E. Schenck, D. D., Pa.

The figures before each name indicate the year of first election.

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DELEGATES APPOINTED BY AUXILIARY SOCIETIES FOR 1877.

MAINE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. John W. Chickering, D. D.

MASSACHUSETTS COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Abner Kingman, Esq.

CONNECTICUT COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. S. R. Dennen, D. D.

NEW YORK COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Almon Merwin, Esq., Rev. Gardiner S. Plumley, Cordial Stotts, Esq.

NEW JERSEY COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. Elijah R. Craven, D. D.

PENNSYLVANIA COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. Edward W. Appleton, D. D., Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D.

SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

Presented January 16, 1877.

The Sixtieth year of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY has not passed without leaving some mournful evidences of the uncertainty of human life, and admonitions to be diligent and faithful in labor while the day lasts.

OBITUARY.

The Rt. Rev. JOHN JOHNS, D. D., of Virginia, elected in 1872, was the first Vice-President whom it has pleased God, since the last Anniversary, to promote from the lower to the higher service. He had been for many years an earnest friend of the Society, aiding it by gifts to its treasury. His life was beautiful in all the elements of manhood, friendship, and piety, and his ministry was dignified, fervent, and full of the gospel.

The name of the next Vice-President transferred from the roll of the living to the roll of the dead is that of EX-GOVERNOR CHARLES S. OLDEN, of New Jersey, elected in 1873, who had long kept himself familiar with the Society's operations, and contributed for its promotion. He filled numerous offices of public and private trust with honor and fidelity, and his departure is regretted by many institutions of benevolence and religion which have shared in his sympathy and liberality.

Few men have evinced a deeper interest in the welfare of the Society than the Hon. JOSEPH R. UNDERWOOD, of Kentucky, elected a Vice-President in 1845. A man of rare endowments, of varied and extended learning, and of clear perceptions and consistent Christian life, his memory is held in sincere affection.

Another of our gifted and godly leaders removed by death is the Rev. EDMUND S. JAMES, D. D., of New York, Senior Bishop of the Methodist E. Church, elected a Vice-President in 1854. He manifested a love for this Society during his whole ministerial course which

was peculiar and strong, often aiding it by his wise counsels and the eloquent advocacy of its principles. Perhaps he was never more happy in public address than at our Anniversary in 1872. His works do follow him, to the praise of the Master whom he served so lovingly and well.

The last Vice-President deceased during the year is the Rev. JOHN P. DURBIN, D. D., of New York, elected in 1853, distinguished as a pastor, professor, and missionary Secretary, and as an orator, for a grand combination of energy and fervor with chaste simplicity. Christianity, philanthropy, and humanity, by his death, are bereft of a friend and ornament.

The Hon. JOSEPH J. ROBERTS sustained relations to this Society and to Liberia which deserve special notice. Born at Norfolk, Virginia, March 15, 1809, and accompanied by two younger brothers, afterward Bishop and Physician, he arrived in Liberia March 21, 1829. Engaging in mercantile pursuits, his characteristic good sense and industry brought him extraordinary success, with which came increasing prosperity and calls to offices of public trust until he became Lieutenant-Governor, which position he held September 3, 1841, the date of the decease of Hon. Thomas Buchanan, the last white Governor of the Colony.

This Society, appreciating the ability and services of Mr. Roberts, appointed him, January 20, 1842, to succeed Governor Buchanan, and he creditably filled that exalted station until his fellow-citizens, having declared themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent State, by the name and title of the Republic of Liberia," unanimously chose him their President, his first term of two years beginning with the organization of the Republic, January 3, 1848. He was re-elected President in 1849, 1851, and 1853, and again in 1871 and 1873, making eighteen years during which he administered the affairs of that nation.

In connection with several visits to Europe, President Roberts did valuable service for Liberia in securing the recognition of her nationality by foreign Powers, in opening the way for the negotiation of treaties of amity and commerce, and in obtaining, as presents from the English and French Governments, two vessels of war for the Coast service, and uniforms and arms for the militia of the Republic.

Mr. Roberts was appointed by the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, July 26, 1856, President of Liberia College, and August 8, 1861, Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law, which positions he held at the time of his death at Monrovia, February 24.

Before leaving for Africa Mr. Roberts united with the Methodist E. Church—a union which was continued and illustrated through life. He was class-leader, Sunday-school teacher, and local preacher, meeting the duties of each according to the demand and opportunity. The influence of his life will be continued to the latest generation.

The Hon. HENRY W. DENNIS, who died at Monrovia June 11, was the Agent in Liberia of this Society from 1852, in the discharge of the duties of which he exhibited thoughtful, judicious, and conscientious regard for the interests of all concerned, and remarkable ability, combined with purity and integrity. Taken by his parents, in 1833, from Snow Hill, Somerset county, Maryland, when about five years of age, he was educated in Liberia, and early took prominent rank in the domestic and foreign trade. In 1863 he was appointed Treasurer of the African Mission of the Methodist E. Church of the United States. He was three times elected a member of the House of Representatives of Liberia, one term of which he was elevated to the Speakership; and from 1872-'74 he was Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic. Strong in the faith of immortality, he passed from the busy scenes of earth to the enjoyment of unending rest in Heaven.

President Roberts and Mr. Dennis may be regarded as striking illustrations of the capability of their race to establish and maintain an intelligent Government, and as two of many others who might be named to whom colonizationists are indebted for the vindication of the wisdom which has established on the Coast of Africa a people and a nation.

FINANCIAL.

The receipts during the year 1876 have been—

Donations.....	\$5,799.95
Legacy.....	5,000.00
Other sources, including \$3,710 from investments realized.....	6,871.39

Making the resources.....	<u>\$17,671.34</u>
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The disbursements during the same period have been—

Passage and settlement of emigrants..	\$5,142.73
Education in Liberia.....	1,050.00
Other purposes, including \$3,000 loan returned, and \$267.56 treasury overdrawn, December 31, 1875.....	9,984.02

\$16,176.75

Balance in bank December 31, 1876	1,494.59
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\$17,671.34

Some falling off in the current receipts was to be expected, owing to the universal depression of business affairs, and salaries and other expenses of the Society have been largely reduced. The friends of African Colonization should see that this downward tendency in their donations be made to give place to an increase. In no previous year were there more urgent motives or wider openings for advance. All things demand and favor an enlargement; all things are ready for it, except this one—the lack of means.

EMIGRATION.

The barque “Liberia,” mentioned in the last Report as having sailed with twenty-one emigrants on board, arrived out February 21; all well. Her company is stated to have safely passed through their acclimation, and but one death, that of a child aged thirteen months, to have taken place. Rev. Andrew Cartwright and Rev. Charles W. Bryant promptly joined the Liberia Annual Conference, and have been actively engaged in the labors of their sacred office. The former writes: “I am sorry that I did not come here as soon as I was emancipated;” and the latter declares “Liberia to be the best country in the world.”

Twenty-seven emigrants were sent by the Society in the barque “Jasper,” which went to sea from New York, November 1, of whom nineteen were from near Columbia, S. C., one from New Orleans, four from Philadelphia, and three from New York. They comprised persons of both sexes and of various ages, and were those who, by their industry, intelligence, and honorable conduct and dealings, had won the respect of their fellow-citizens. Most of them were farmers. Eighteen reported themselves as communicants in Evangelical churches. Nineteen are to settle at Arthington, four in Montserrado county, and four at Cape Palmas.

Emigration to Liberia every year under the auspices of this Society has been uninterrupted for the last fifty-six years. Those now reported make the number colonized since the war to be three thousand one hundred and thirty-seven, and a total from the beginning of fifteen thousand one hundred and twenty-five, exclusive of five thousand seven hundred and twenty-two recaptured Africans, which we induced and enabled the Government of the United States to settle in Liberia, making a grand total of twenty thousand eight hundred and forty-seven persons to whom the Society has given homes in Africa.

APPLICATIONS.

Spontaneous applications have been received during the year, representing thousands of worthy colored people anxious to emigrate to

Liberia. The motives actuating them seem to be to at once better their condition and that of their families, and to secure free homesteads, social elevation, and large advantages for wealth, with the grandest opportunities of Christian usefulness.

The following are specimens of numerous letters:

CHARLESTON, S. C., *January 29, 1876.*

Some colored men here who have long been interested in Liberia and have labored for its mission work, desire to emigrate thither. One having passed his meridian says his age may prevent his doing all he desires, but he thinks he will be the David, while his son will be the Solomon to build the Temple.

MOBILE, ALA., *February 22, 1876.*

I am requested to inquire if you would let a company of twenty-five men go to Liberia? If so, they will arrange to leave their families until they can settle themselves in Africa. As far as I can learn, they are industrious mechanics and laborers, and men of some genius and enterprise.

CHICAGO, ILL., *February 9, 1876.*

I have thought and preached about Liberia for the last six years, and now myself and wife have come to the conclusion that we will go there, God being our helper. We have no children. I am pastor of Providence Baptist Church of this city, and my people are a loving people, over a hundred strong. All of this does not take away the desire to preach in Africa, which I am *resolved* to do. Please let me know when the next ship will start for Liberia, and all other necessary information.

MERIDIAN, MISS., *February 2, 1876.*

The colored people are becoming very much interested about going to Liberia. I am anxious to go where, with my children, I can be free among my own people. I am a farmer and blacksmith, and belong to the colored Methodist Church, in which I am a minister. I feel like I ought to preach to my race in Africa, and help to raise them from darkness and degradation.

TOOMSUBA, MISS., *August 19, 1876.*

I have over one hundred families desiring passage to Liberia. There are five Baptist and two Methodist preachers in the number. We have growing crops, but provisions are so high and cotton is so low in price that we fear we shall not make anything beyond enough to pay

our debts. We would like to know what arrangements can be made to get to the ship and when we ought to start. We feel that our interests are with the people of Liberia.

COLUMBIA, S. C., *September, 7, 1876.*

I am requested to inform you of a company now forming in this State to emigrate to Liberia, and to ask you for information with regard to the probabilities of going the present year, &c. The company proposes to consist of about four hundred, say one hundred and fifty males between the ages of fifteen and fifty years, and a like number of females, the balance in children of from fifteen down. They are said to be generally sober, industrious people, some mechanics but mostly farmers, many of them members of the Methodist E. Church, a few preachers among them, and some qualified to teach primary schools.

Missionary Societies have been formed during the year in several institutions in the South for the instruction of colored youth, having Africa in view as the field of their efforts.

The "Missionary Record," edited by Rev. R. H. Cain, D. D., and issued at Charleston by the "Publishing Association of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the African Methodist E. Church," says:

"We are receiving communications from various persons and from all sections of the country on the subject of emigration to Africa. Thousands of colored people in South Carolina would leave if the means of transportation were furnished them. In Abbeville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Newberry, Lexington, Marlboro, Georgetown, Colleton, Barnwell, Aiken, and Edgefield, and among many hundreds in Charleston and Beaufort counties, there are movements to organize for removal to Liberia, where several thousand Americans are struggling manfully to establish a national civilization which shall reflect honor upon the whole race. The Negro has a destiny to work out and must have a fair field. Africa is the land which God has reserved for them, and there they are to develop themselves and their national character. There the American emigrant will find a Republic established and in full working order, with twenty-five acres of rich land guaranteed to each family. There our young men will have every advantage and encouragement, and mechanics, farmers, business men, and enterprising persons can reap the reward of their industry."

The great question before the Society is, what is to be done with

these and similar appeals? Shall these people be helped to the possession of the Continent of Africa, their birthright and their land of promise? The feelings and hopes of Liberia regarding immigration are thus presented in a communication from President Payne, dated Executive Mansion, Monrovia, *September 7*:

“It is the ardent desire of the Government and all Liberians that emigration may continue increasingly to go on from the United States. We see in this the best hopes of the colored people and the strengthening of the Christian government which the efforts of American philanthropy have founded on this Continent. For, notwithstanding the peaceable disposition of our native brethren, and the growing inclination to identification in government, even among the recently rebellious but now friendly and contented Greboes, all of us feel that the civilized and Christian communities are too feeble to permeate the pagan populations as they should be. Were it in our power we would have ship after ship in your harbors to carry the willing to the land of their forefathers.”

LIBERIA.

The condition of Liberia continues to improve, and the exports of coffee, sugar, and other products to increase. It is stated in the last Annual Message of President Roberts that “In the abundance of the harvests which has attended the labors of the agriculturists, and in the success experienced by those engaged in commercial and other pursuits, we cannot fail to acknowledge the goodness of God.”

Rev. J. B. Pinney, now in Liberia, writes from Monrovia, *December 6*, as follows:

“I have in three weeks of my stay here been able to visit Arthington and Brewerville, as well as several points on the St. Paul’s river, and also down the Junk to Little Bassa. On the whole, I am quite agreeably surprised to see so general and extensive attention to coffee culture, and, despite the late war, general hopefulness. The gathering of the coffee crop is now commencing, and will be larger than any preceding. In some instances I have seen the trees literally with limbs resting on the ground from their heavy load of clustering berries. Rev. Mr. Priest, from Sinou County, came up yesterday in fine health and spirits. At his communion last Sabbath he received twenty-one communicants—nineteen on examination. He says the soil in Sinou produces much larger crops than the land in this region. He has many coffee trees yielding nine pounds at a crop.”

Rev. James Spriggs Payne was inaugurated President of Liberia, at Monrovia, January 3, and Rev. Charles H. Harmon was then sworn in as Vice-President.

By appointment of the President, Thursday, November 2, was observed throughout the Republic as "Thanksgiving Day." The rector of St. Mark's Church, Cape Palmas, thus writes of its observance by his people: "There was a fine congregation. The sacred edifice was tastefully decorated with some of our choicest flowers and fruits. Before the bell commenced ringing several persons carried in a variety of fruits and vegetables as a thank offering; many of these were arranged about the church railing with imposing effect, reminding all of the occasion of the service. There were seen, interspersed among flowers and pretty vines, oranges, bananas, watermelons, papaws, green corn, oca, bread fruit, cassava. &c. Besides these, a collection in cash was taken for the poor."

PEACE AND UNION.

With sincere gratification and thankfulness the Society records the fact that the war between the Liberians and natives at Cape Palmas, which threatened to be widespread and disastrous, has been quite limited, and not only has peace been made, but causes of offense have been removed.

Two or three additional attacks have been made by the Greboes on exposed Liberian settlements, but they were successfully repulsed without serious loss of life.

The United States steamer "Alaska," which was mentioned in the last Report as having been ordered from the Mediterranean to the West Coast of Africa, arrived at Monrovia February 3, and, taking on board the President and Vice-President of Liberia, left there on the 12th and cast anchor off Cape Palmas on the 18th.

A council of the King and chiefs of the Greboes was convened and held at the Orphan Asylum, Cape Palmas, commencing February 26; and "after careful and impartial discussions for the space of four days," terms of peace and union were agreed upon, and a treaty was accordingly signed March 1.

The treaty stipulates: First. That perpetual peace shall exist. Second. The Greboes acknowledge the supremacy of the Government of Liberia and agree to submit to its laws. Third. They promise to surrender all artillery, whether captured or purchased. Fourth. They bind themselves to withdraw from any connection with the Grebo

reunited Kingdom in a political point of view. Fifth. They acknowledge the Liberia Government owns all the land, holding it alike for the Americo-Liberians and for the native Liberians. Sixth. They renew their allegiance to the Liberia Government. Seventh. The Liberia Government guarantees equal rights, and recommends the natives to become citizens. Eighth. It agrees that the natives shall have the same privileges to the use of the lands as the Americo-Liberians. Ninth. All Liberians, native and Americo-Liberians, shall have the same rights in foreign and domestic trade; and Tenth. A full and complete amnesty is granted for all past political offenses growing out of or resulting from the war which is settled by this treaty, except the liability to which the Liberia Government may be held by foreign nations for depredations committed upon foreign commerce.

Four years ago the Greboes, reputed to be the most numerous and intelligent tribe within the jurisdiction of Liberia, united their eight branches, which had hitherto been at variance, under one King, and are now said to have from eight to ten thousand fighting men. It has been ascertained that the leaders believed that England would render them assistance in their war upon the Republic; but the Foreign Office promptly impressed them with the utter groundlessness of such expectations.

Much praise is due to Capt. A. A. Semmes, of the "Alaska," for his considerate, impartial, and able efforts in bringing about a return of peace and union, without resort to force. Liberia has thus been mainly saved from what promised to be a devastating conflict through the instrumentality of the Government of the United States. It is to be hoped that in future her men-of-war will more frequently visit the ports of the daughter Republic, and afford the protection so essential to its progress and prosperity.

EDUCATION.

The attendance at the two schools at Arthington and one at Brewerville, supported from the "Graham Fund" in charge of this Society, is reported by the teachers to be regular and the scholars to be making satisfactory advances in their studies.

The James Hall School at Cape Palmas, incorporated by the Legislature and supported from the income of funds set apart for that purpose by the Maryland State Colonization Society, has commenced operations.

"Thirty-two pupils of fair average ability" are stated to be in the Preparatory Department of Liberia College.

But few, if any, of the Colleges in the United States were founded under circumstances similar to those which have hampered the progress of Liberia College. Generally speaking, they have grown out of common schools and academies, and were the natural result of those preparatory institutions, which not only fitted subjects for the College, but created and fostered in the people a love for education and a sympathy with the higher agencies for promoting it.

In Liberia, however, the College was established without antecedent or precedent, unless the Alexander High School, which furnished two of the Professors, and the Monrovia Academy be taken as a sort of antecedent or precursor. But on the establishment of the College these institutions were suspended, and there were none for either preparing subjects for the College or for recommending it to the population. The College had therefore to force its way into a state of society entirely unprepared for it, and among a people who felt that they had all along done very well without it, and but little time or thought has been given to make it efficient or successful. Liberia College was never more needed than now, the Alexander High School, recently reopened, being the only educational institution of the class between Sierra Leone and Cape Coast Castle. The College receives no income whatever from students, and it occupies a field where very few are able to contribute to its support.

There is a great need of teachers in Liberia, and the College or a school of high grade ought to be established and efficiently maintained for their training, to which might be added a home for girls, where a number might be taught the habits and duties of a good home life whilst they are being fitted for teachers.

AMERICA'S OPPORTUNITY.

The continent of Africa is longer and broader and contains more square miles than the United States. Its population is estimated at from one to two hundred millions. It has been found to be generally fertile, interspersed with hills, prairies, and dense forests, but nowhere with mountains corresponding to the great rocky chain of this country. It is generally well-watered, the fact of which is proved by the rivers Senegal, Gambia, Niger, and Congo, on the West Coast, with the Zambesi, on the East, while the Nile, with its numerous branches, carries the rains of vast regions of the interior into the Mediterranean.

Inland are several lakes, the Victoria, Albert, Tchad, and others of less note. The inhabitants are almost exclusively engaged in agriculture, with small numbers in manufactures of a rude nature. About half of the people are pagans of ignorant and superstitious character, while the other half are Mohammedans, who are gradually converting the continent. The products are all of the grains known, with cotton, sugar, coffee, palm oil, and other tropical articles. Gold, iron, and dye-woods are also produced.

Africa is a rich country, densely populated, producing many very valuable commodities which are coveted in Europe and America, while manufactures of nearly all kinds are needed among the inhabitants, which might be exchanged to the mutual advantage of both, the products to increase and the manufactures to be consumed in vast and constantly increasing ratio as the population becomes civilized. To accomplish this, intercommunication by means of railroads are necessary. Perhaps there is no region where trade could be made more advantageous to the United States than Western Africa. Railroads would be powerful agencies of commerce and colonization, and if built by this country the continent will also in time become Anglicized and speak the English language.

It seems wise that Congress should authorize a vessel of war, with a suitable engineer corps, to proceed to Liberia to survey one or more routes from the Coast eastward beyond the Kong Mountains, and to report the best and most practicable route for the commencement of an African Continental Railroad, together with the general features of the country, its population, wants, and commercial capabilities. Perhaps this could all be done in the moderate weather of a single season. The cost of these surveys would be trifling, especially as the man-of-war is under the same expense in active service, and the engineers are not fully employed in peace times. The precedents for these surveys are the several surveys of the Isthmus of Darien for a ship-canal, made on foreign soil, while railroads are certainly more practical than canals, and this survey would be in a Republic founded by Americans and strengthened by American philanthropy and benevolence.

The report of surveys being favorable and the railroad commenced, a line of four medium-size screw-steamers might be put on to run between Philadelphia or New York, laden with manufactures for the African trade and railroad material, and touch at Norfolk or Charleston to take colored railroad laborers and emigrants, and thence proceed to Monrovia, under steam or favorable winds, in about twenty

days. On return trips, these vessels would generally find cargoes of sugar, coffee, palm oil, peanuts, camwood, and other African products. And doubtless, to encourage the enterprise and extend American commerce, a small subsidy would be granted by Congress to carry the mails, which now go by two British lines of steamers from Liverpool.

With the commencement and gradual progress of the proposed railroad into the interior, and the establishment of a screw-steamship line, to be gradually increased to weekly departures from both shores, this regular, speedy, and cheap mode of emigration would doubtless convey to Liberia a large number of colored emigrants the first year, to increase from year to year. This number would be small, compared with the exodus from Ireland, which, from a population of eight millions, sent two, three, and even four hundred thousand annually to America and elsewhere. Estimating the colored population of the United States at four and a half millions, and of the West Indies and South America at eight millions, it is likely that hundreds of thousands of them would prefer to remove to the old homes of their ancestors in Africa.

The cotton, sugar, coffee, and tobacco alone which would be raised by these emigrants and the natives brought under their influence might be expected to make the enterprise self-supporting, while the penetration of the vast interior with the railroad would give a traffic in African products, and perhaps the discovery of rich gold, diamonds, silver, copper, lead, coal, and salt mines; these, together with the manufactures required by millions of people, wanting almost everything, would probably make the road one of the best-paying freight lines in the world.

Its effect in opening and elevating Africa, and in the destruction of the miserable and degrading slavery of half its inhabitants, with the cruel and destructive wars caused thereby, could scarcely be estimated. It would rapidly and enormously increase its population, agriculture, manufactures, and education, and in a short time destroy its degrading and destructive superstition by the diffusion of intelligence and a pure faith. And when the road is completed from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean across the entire continent, it will then furnish the shortest, cheapest, quickest, and best route from the Atlantic Coasts of North and South America to and from India, China, and Australia.

As a colonizer and a civilizer of Africa, the United States have vastly superior advantages to all other Powers, which have no colored men for colonizing the tropical regions, where whites are not adapted

to the climate. The United States have millions of the very people best suited to the country, of the same race and color, civilized and even enlightened, and who have repeatedly shown their willingness to emigrate in great numbers, if they were furnished the means and facilities. The proposed railroad and steamship line will do this, and if carried out, American influence and trade in Africa will surpass all other nations.

Not to be behind worldly enterprise, missionary Societies would gladly avail themselves of so grand an opening to enter the interior with the missions, and Christian settlements, towns, and cities would quickly appear in all that region. During the past eighteen months the people of Great Britain have given, in large and special gifts, about \$150,000 in gold, for planting and sustaining missions in the lake portion of Central Africa. Similar liberality, if not on a larger scale, might be expected in the United States.

So would the way be rapidly prepared for Africa to have her part in the fulfillment of the words of ancient prophecy: "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting or destruction within thy borders, but thou shalt call thy walls salvation and thy gates praise."

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR.

Receipts and Disbursements of the American Colonization Society, in the year 1876.

CR.

Received donations and collections	\$5,799 95	Paid for passage and settlement of emigrants	\$5,142 73
“ legacy	5,000 00	“ for support of schools in Liberia	1,050 00
“ interest on investments	303 00	“ taxes, insurance and repairs of Colonization Build'g	740 86
“ rents of Colonization Building	2,712 75	“ for printing African Repository	379 80
“ subscriptions to African Repository	96 80	“ salary of Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, printing, postages, office expenses, and care of land in Virginia and Florida	2,481 87
“ investments realized	3,710 00	“ salaries of General Secretary and of Agent, traveling expenses, and rent of New York office	2,794 62
“ returns from Liberia	48 84	“ interest on loans	319 31
		“ loans returned, borrowed to send emigrants, viz: Bank, \$3,000 00 Treasury, 267 56	3,267 56
		Disbursements	16,126 75
		Balance in bank December 31, 1876	1,494 59
Receipts	\$17,671 34	Total	\$17,671 34

We, Committee on Accounts, have collated the items of foregoing account with the vouchers, and find them to correspond therewith.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 17, 1877.*

J. W. CHICKERING, }
JOHN B. KERR. } *Committee,*

MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 16, 1877.*

The Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society was held this evening, commencing at 7½ o'clock, in the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, President, in the chair.

Rev. John P. Newman, D.D., Pastor of the Church, led in prayer.

The Sixtieth Annual Report of the Society was presented, and portions of it were read by Mr. Coppinger, Corresponding Secretary.

The Society was addressed by President Latrobe.

An address by Prof. Alexander T. McGill, D.D., of Princeton, N. J., unable to deliver it in person by reason of "duties peculiarly pressing," was read by Rev. William E. Schenck, D.D., of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Chair announced the receipt of an address prepared by Rev. Edward P. Humphrey, D.D., of Louisville, Kentucky, who being prevented from attendance, his address would be published by the Society.

Brief impromptu addresses were delivered by Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D.D.,* of New York, and Rev. John P. Newman, D.D., of Washington, D. C.

The Society then adjourned to meet at 12 o'clock to-morrow, in the Colonization Building.

Rev. George W. Samson, D.D., of New York, pronounced the benediction.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, *January 17, 1877.*

The American Colonization Society met at the appointed time; and in the absence of the President, caused by professional duties, Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D.D., Senior Vice President in attendance, was chosen to preside.

The Minutes of the meeting of last evening were read and approved.

Rev. Drs. William H. Steele, George W. Samson, and John W. Chickering, were appointed a Committee to nominate a President and Vice Presidents of the Society for the ensuing year.

*Page 28.

NOTE.—The addresses by President Latrobe, Prof. McGill, and of Rev. Dr. Humphrey, have been printed, separate and entire, in pamphlet form; and copies can be had on application at the Society's rooms.

On motion of Hon. P. Parker, it was

Resolved, That our acknowledgments are due to the Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., and Rev. John P. Newman, D. D., for their able addresses delivered last evening at the Anniversary of the Society, and that copies be requested for our archives. Also, to Rev. Edward P. Humphrey, D. D., and Prof. Alexander T. McGill, D. D., for their able and timely addresses which, providentially unable to be present, were kindly furnished for the occasion.

Resolved, That the Committee charged with the duty of providing speakers, convey to those gentlemen the thanks of the Society.

Resolved, That our thanks be given to the Pastor and Trustees of Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, for its use last evening for the Annual Meeting of the Society.

Rev. Dr. Steele, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, presented and read a Report, recommending, mainly, the re-election of the present President and Vice Presidents, and the election of Rev. E. G. Robinson, LL. D., of Rhode Island; Rev. J. F. Elder, D. D., of New York, and Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D., of Pennsylvania, as additional Vice Presidents of the Society.

Whereupon, on motion, it was

Resolved, That the Committee's report be accepted and the nominations approved, and that the Society elect the persons nominated. (See page 3.)

On motion, adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 16, 1877.*

The Board of Directors of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY met this day at 12 o'clock M., in their rooms in the Colonization Building, 450 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, President of the Society, called the Board to order, and at his request Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., led in prayer.

Mr. William Coppinger was appointed Secretary; and the unprinted portions of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and, on motion, the minutes were approved.

Hon. Mr. Parker and Rev. Drs. Appleton and Prime were appointed a Committee on Credentials, who retired and subsequently

reported the following-named Delegates appointed by Auxiliary Societies for the year 1877:

MAINE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. John W. Chickering, D. D.

MASSACHUSETTS COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Abner Kingman, Esq.

CONNECTICUT COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. S. R. Dennen, D. D.

NEW YORK COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Almon Merwin, Esq.,* Rev. Gardiner S. Plumley, Cordial Storrs, Esq.

NEW JERSEY COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. Elijah R. Craven, D. D.*

PENNSYLVANIA COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—Rev. Edward W. Appleton, D. D., Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D.

The following members were reported to be in attendance:

LIFE DIRECTORS.—Rev. John Orcutt, D. D., Charles H. Nichols, M. D., Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., Rev. William H. Steele, D. D., Rev. George W. Samson, D. D.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Harvey Lindsly, M. D., Joseph H. Bradley, Esq., Hon. Peter Parker, Hon. John B. Kerr, President James C. Welling, LL. D.

Whereupon, on motion, it was

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Credentials be accepted and approved, and the gentlemen named be received.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That Rev. Samuel E. Appleton, D. D., of Philadelphia, Pa., a Vice President of the Society, be invited to sit with the Board as a corresponding member.

The President appointed the **STANDING COMMITTEES**, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.—Hon. Peter Parker, Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—Joseph H. Bradley, Esq., Rev. S. R. Dennen, D. D., Cordial Storrs, Esq.

COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.—Rev. John Orcutt, D. D., Dr. Charles H. Nichols, Rev. Gardiner S. Plumley.

COMMITTEE ON AGENCIES.—Harvey Lindsly, M. D., Rev. Edward W. Appleton, D. D., Rev. William H. Steele, D. D.

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS.—Rev. John W. Chickering, D. D., Hon. John B. Kerr.

COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.—President James C. Welling, Rev. George W. Samson, D. D.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.—Rev. George W. Samson, D. D., Hon. John B. Kerr, Abner Kingman, Esq.

The Corresponding Secretary presented and read the Sixtieth Annual Report of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary presented and read the Annual Statement of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer presented and read his Report of Receipts and Disbursements in the year 1876, with certificate of audit; also, a statement of receipts by States during the year, and list of property now owned by the Society.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Annual Report of the Society, Statement of the Executive Committee, and the Treasurer's Report, with the accompanying Annual Statements and papers, be accepted; and that so much of them as relates to Foreign Relations, Finance, Auxiliary Societies, Agencies, Accounts, Emigration, and Education, be referred to the several Standing Committees in charge of those subjects respectively.

Rev. Dr. Schenck presented and read the following resolution, certified to have been unanimously adopted at the monthly meeting of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society held on Tuesday, January 9, 1877, proposing an amendment to the Constitution, viz:

“*Resolved*, That it be proposed by this Society to the Parent Society that Article Second of the Constitution of the American Colonization Society be amended so as read: the objects of this Society shall be to aid the colonization of Africa by voluntary colored emigrants from the United States, and to promote there the extension of Christianity and civilization.”

Rev. Dr. Appleton proposed that Article Fifth of the Constitution of the Society be amended by changing the word “five” to three.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to nominate the Executive Committee and Secretaries of the Society for the ensuing year.

Rev. Drs. Steele, Prime, and Appleton were appointed the Committee.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Board do now adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, *January 17, 1877.*

The Board of Directors met at the appointed time, and in the absence of President Latrobe, by reason of professional engagements, Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., Senior Vice President in attendance, took the chair, and prayer was offered by Rev. Samuel E. Appleton, D. D.

The minutes of yesterday's meeting were read and approved.

The notice of proposed amendment of Article Second of the Constitution of the Society, submitted yesterday from the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, was taken up, and the question being raised as to whether action thereon at this meeting is required, the Chair ruled, and his decision stood as the sense of the Board, that the notice given by the auxiliary was sufficient, and it remains only for the Board to adopt the recommendation by a two-thirds vote at its next annual meeting to secure the amendment of the Constitution.

The proposition to change the word "five" to "three" in Article Fifth of the Constitution of the Society, submitted yesterday, was called up and discussed, and on leave being given, it was withdrawn.

President Welling, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Emigration, presented and read the following report; which was accepted and approved:

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Emigration beg leave respectfully to report, that it appears from the records of the Society that the total number of emigrants settled in Liberia under our auspices during the last sixty years has now reached the aggregate sum of 15,125. As the increase of this population by births is supposed to have repaired or more than repaired its decrease by deaths, it is safe to estimate the present Americano-Liberian population at about 15,000 souls.

With a diminution in the current number of our yearly emigrants, caused by a decline in the pecuniary resources of the Society, your Committee respectfully recommend to the Board that the Executive Committee be directed, in the selection of future emigrants, to have paramount regard to the religious, moral, and intellectual qualifications of those who shall be accepted as the beneficiaries of the Society's bounty. Since, with our present income, we cannot hope to add materially to the *number* of the Liberian population, it would seem the imperative dictate of a wise and practical economy that we should seek, as far as possible, to reinvigorate the social forces of the Liberian Republic by pouring into it the Christianizing and civilizing currents which can alone give stability to its national life and win for it the presage of a sound and steady growth.

It is the peculiar distinction and the crowning glory of the American Colonization Society, considered simply as a missionary enterprise, that it has planted on a heathen soil the Christian religion, the Christian home, and the Christian State, as mutual auxiliaries and supports. The forces which are mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strongholds are not carnal, but spiritual; and the efficacy of these forces will depend in largest measure on their intensity—on that leavening power by virtue of which they increase in strength while enlarging the area of their influence.

It is a matter of congratulation and of thanksgiving that African colonization, under our auspices, has not been attended by any of those disasters which for a time blighted the earliest essays of European colonization in the New World. The growth

of the Liberian Republic has been steady, if gradual. 'Though large additions, drawn from the colored population of our country, will doubtless be made in future years to the present inhabitants of that Commonwealth, it would seem most prudent, in the present state and stage of our operations, to inquire how we can best promote the growth in Liberia of a strong and sturdy Christian civilization, which shall strengthen itself while working aggressively on the powers of darkness in the African continent.

The history of European colonization in America is little more than a history of successive failures so long as that colonization was stimulated only by love of adventure, by the restless desire of change, or by the quest for gold; but a permanent lodgment was secured for the best elements of a new civilization as soon as colonies were formed here by men who believed that they had something in their hearts that was worth living for, and for which they could live better in America than in Europe. If the salt of the Mayflower has not yet lost its savor in New England, and if the traditions of Jamestown have left an ineffaceable trace on the history of Virginia, it is because the early colonists of both New England and Virginia carried something in their heads, as well as in their hearts, which was more precious and more potent than anything they carried in their hands. The lesson should not be lost on us in laboring for the Christianization and enlightenment of Africa.

Rev. Mr. Plumley, from the Standing Committee on Auxiliary Societies, presented and read the following Report; which was accepted and approved:

The Committee on Auxiliaries respectfully report that Auxiliaries of more or less vitality exist in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Some of these Auxiliaries have held meetings during the year, and have appointed Delegates to the Parent Society. It is hoped that the state of affairs will render new Auxiliaries expedient.

Hon. Mr. Parker, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations, reported that, in their judgment, there was no business in the documents referred to them calling for action at this time.

Dr. Lindsly, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agencies, presented and read a Report; pending the consideration of which the appointed hour arrived for the meeting of the Society, whereupon the Board took a recess for thirty minutes; at the expiration of which time it was again called to order.

The Board resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Agencies, and it was accepted and approved:

The Committee on Agencies respectfully report that at the present time they have no special recommendations to offer to the consideration of the Board of Directors, but they again express their concurrence in the resolution adopted two years since at the annual meeting of the Board, viz: "We earnestly recommend to the Executive Committee to employ whatever instrumentalities they may judge wisest to arouse the public mind in behalf of the work and claims of the Society and to obtain more enlarged means of carrying it on;" except that we recommend that the practice

of employing agents for the collection of moneys on the percentage principle be abandoned by the Committee.

Rev. Dr. Samson, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education, presented and read the following Report; which was accepted and approved, and the accompanying resolutions were adopted:

The Committee on Education respectfully report that the specially valuable statements of the Annual Report as to education in Liberia and the efforts of the Executive Committee for its improvement indicate an important feature which is to characterize the work of colonization. They call attention to three vital questions: *First*. What is the real and permanent boon which America owes to her children of African descent, and which it can confer; is it material wealth, the elective franchise, or education? *Second*. How can this Society aid in conferring this greatest boon, dependent as they are on the exertion of a mere moral influence in promoting the efficiency of the Government common schools, of the Missionary high schools, and of the independent College? *Third*. What modification of the mission of the Colonization Society has come about, now that it is no longer to colonize emancipated slaves or ocean recaptives, in reference to whom educational preparation for colonization could not be regarded, but it is to colonize colored American citizens who will go to Africa from their own conviction that they have a mission there?

The study of historic precedents and of their special application to the work of this Society can alone furnish a safe guide in replying to this question. The history of all Europe and of the world conspires in the suggestion of these three principles for the guidance of this Society: *First*. The substantial boon conferred on nations has been, not increased wealth nor political independence, but improved culture. *Second*. This culture has been derived from the double influence of outside education brought in, and the sustaining and advancing development of self-education. *Third*. The only truly moulding and lasting education has been that prompted, not by material interest, but by religious conviction.

Roman culture, as her historians, poets, and statesmen agree, did not permeate the nation under her kings when her intercourse with the seats of more ancient civilization was only commercial, nor yet when the young Republic sent to Athens for a code of laws; but when Greece was "captured" and her libraries, art collections, and scholars were brought "into Larium"—up to that era still "rustic." So the civilization of the Roman Empire was brought into Western Europe by cultured Romans, became self-sustained in the Saxon development under Alfred and Charlemagne, and it culminated after the Norman introduction of improved customs and laws, and of advanced art and literature. The most important fact developed in all this history is that traced by Cicero as to Grecian and Roman culture, and by Guizot in the civilization of Western Europe; that it was *not* material interest, industrial, commercial, or political, but it was religious conviction in the moral teachers of ancient Greece and Rome and in the Christian educators of medieval and modern France, Germany, and England which gave vitality, efficiency, and permanence to educational effort. In his exhaustive study of American systems of education, which aided Guizot in bringing order out of chaos in modern French revolutionary systems, this feature is presented in a light which ought to be most instructive to leaders in educational enterprises that have had an experience of scarcely a decade instead of centuries to guide them.

The application of these historic precedents to Africa is *direct*, because it is a part of common history; and it is *indirectly* to be a guide to this Society. Herodotus gives an account of an Egyptian colony, sent in the days of the Hebrew judges into Ethiopia, now Abyssinia. He tells how its developing power gave to a line of Ethiopian kings an ascendancy in Egypt whose influence Bunsen traced; the secret source of which development David, the second king of Israel, already saw when he wrote, "Ethiopia shall *soon* stretch out her hands unto God;" and of whose commercial importance his son Solomon availed himself. Later Greek writers, as Strabo and Diodorus, describe the wider influence of Greek colonization in Africa; whose explorers found the headwaters of the Nile just where they are now fixed, whose intercourse incorporated Greek words into the tongues of Central Africa now noticed by philologists, and whose readers of the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, prepared in Egypt, are exemplified in the treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia in the days of Jesus Christ. By a similar outside imported influence Arabian Mohammedanism now permeates and rules Central Africa. The question is not at all, then, whether the people of Central Africa are susceptible of an instructed civilization and of a religious culture; but whether, after the efficiency of Egyptian idolatry, of Hebrew prophecy, of Grecian philosophy, and of Mohammedan deism have been successively tested, the Gospel of Christ and Christian philanthropy is to confess its inadequacy.

The application of this principle to our colored people, and to the mission of this Society on their behalf, is manifest. The emancipated descendants of African ancestors among us have, after two centuries of toil in enriching us, received no property remuneration in lands, implements, or money; for nobody has supposed it to be their need. The gift of the ballot is generally admitted to have been at least a political experiment, questionable in its issue. The boon of education has been a treasure indeed; and it is not the State nor the nation, but Christian associations that have furnished it. The question now, as to the value of this only real boon is, *where* it is to be used. Perhaps the lamented Rev. Mr. Hill, a returned Liberian, was right when to his fellow-countrymen in this city, just after the war, he exclaimed, "Brethren, be assured, the education which the white people are now giving you is the borrowed jewel of your former masters, to be your treasure in the land of promise over the sea." It is manifestly the duty of this Society to keep in close intercourse with these centers where the enthusiasm of superior education is preparing the true civilizers of Africa.

Again, since in Liberia the spirit of culture must become self-sustaining, if its value is perpetuated, the school facilities of that country must be studied by this Society, and all the moral influence in their power be exerted to promote their success. The history of republics and of Christian missions conspires to impress the importance of this suggestion, developed so ably by Montesquieu under Louis XIV of France. If a nation and people are to be ruled by force, a few thoroughly-trained youth, selected from the people and educated apart from them, are the best agents to control their fellow-countrymen whose ignorance is perpetuated for the sake of this control. No republic, however, as Montesquieu showed, can stand, unless all the people are trained to self-sustained and self-developed mental and moral culture. On this principle the American States have relied for their own stable success under free institutions, and the Republic of Liberia is framed after the American model.

There are, as the report indicates, three classes of schools in Liberia, whose interests, as the statement of the Executive Committee, as well as the Report of the Society, fully

show, have been specially considered. These include, *first*, the Government schools for primary education; *second*, five higher schools, two of which are under the supervision of Mission Societies and three of the Executive Committee; and *third*, the College, both controlled and maintained outside of Liberia. The Trustees of the College have fixed a worthy ideal; introducing the study of Arabic as the learned language of Africa, and appointing able professors. The College has failed of large success, first, from its isolated location, but second, and mainly, because its trustees, its professors, and its pupils are isolated from the support and the control, and hence from the sympathies of the Liberian people. The aspirations and faith of its late President, the first President also of the Republic, will give it hope so long as the name of Roberts is revered. The Mission and other high schools are taking a new and advanced character because of the decline of the College. All these facts, to which the historic precedents cited are to be applied, lead your Committee to propose, for the adoption of this Board, the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That while this Society has growing importance, because it is the only agency for direct colonization in Liberia, the interests of education are becoming an essential part of its work.

Resolved, That the importance to Liberia and Africa of educated colonists calls new attention to the effort to foster the spirit of emigration in educated colored youth.

Resolved, That the effort to give unity to the several educational institutions of Liberia should still be the effort of this Society.

Mr. Storrs, from the Standing Committee on Finance, presented and read a Report; which was accepted and approved.

Rev. Dr. Chickering, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Accounts, presented and read the following Report; which was accepted and approved:

We, Committee on Accounts, have collated the items of the Treasurer's account with the vouchers, and find them to correspond therewith.

Rev. Mr. Plumley and Mr. Storrs were appointed additional members of the Special Committee to nominate the Executive Committee and Secretaries.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the whole subject of the financial condition of the Society be referred to a Committee of seven, of which Rev. Dr. Prime shall be Chairman.

Resolved, That when the Board adjourn, it adjourn to meet on the Tuesday before the second Thursday in May, at the City of New York.

Rev. Dr. Prime, Dr. Lindsly, Rev. Dr. Steele, Dr. Mason, Judge Warren, and Rev. Drs. Woolsey and E. W. Appleton constitute the Committee.

Rev. Drs. Samson and Orcutt and Rev. Mr. Plumley were appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the adjourned meeting of the Board in New York.

Rev. Dr. Steele, Chairman of the Special Committee to nominate the Executive Committee and Secretaries, reported, recommending the re-election of the following :

GENERAL SECRETARY.—Rev. John Orcutt, D. D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND TREASURER.—William Copping,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Harvey Lindsly, M. D., Joseph H. Bradley, Esq., William Gunton, Esq., Hon. Peter Parker, Hon. John B. Kerr, Charles H. Nichols, M. D., and James C. Welling, LL. D.

Whereupon, on motion, it was

Resolved, That the Report be accepted and approved, and that the Board elect the persons nominated by the Committee.

Letters were presented, excusing their absence from this meeting, from Life Directors Rev. H. C. Potter, D. D., December 27 ; Rev. John Maclean, D. D., January 1 ; Edward Coles, Esq., January 3 ; and James Hall, M. D., January 6 ; and from the following Delegates, appointed by Auxiliary Societies: Hon. G. Washington Warren, January 15 ; Almon Merwin, Esq., January 13 ; Rev. David Inglis, D. D., January 10 ; Theodore L. Mason, M. D., January 11 ; and Rev. Elijah R. Craven, D. D., January 16 ; also from Rev. Henry M. Turner, D. D., a Vice President of the Society, January 13.

The Board united in prayer, led by Rev. Mr. Plumley, and then, on motion, adjourned.

ADDRESS OF REV. DR. S. IRENÆUS PRIME.*

The President called upon the Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., of New York, to make a few remarks. In compliance with this request he said :

If these galleries were crowded with an eager and applauding assembly, and the platform was brilliant with the galaxy of illustrious men who had formerly graced these anniversaries, there would be no lack of speakers ready to lend their eloquence in behalf of this cause. But at this time there seems to be a prevalent impression that the work of this Society has been accomplished, and it may now pass into history. Well, sir, if it were to sink through this floor to-night, and never live in the future, it has done a work to make it immortal, and to entitle it to the gratitude and respect of the human race. It was born of the purest philanthropy, and never had a pulse of life that

* At the Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society, January 16, 1877.

did not beat with love for God and man. It has planted on the Coast of Africa a colony, a Republic, a civilized and Christian State that will stand to the end of time as a light-house on the shore, attracting thither successive companies of colored men seeking the land of their fathers, and throwing also far into the interior of that dark continent the glorious light of civilizing Christianity, so that this Society, though it were dead, would speak to two worlds and tell them that Liberia is the home for the aspiring Christian African. We love the old Society for what it has done, and for what it can do; and in the time of its depression, when few come up to its annual feasts, though thousands of colored people are asking its aid to enable them to emigrate to the land they long for, we will stand by it, pray for it, work for it; and, Mr. President, as on this sixtieth Anniversary you have eloquently recited the names and deeds of its founders, so it may be possible that sixty years hence, on the hundred and twentieth Anniversary of the American Colonization Society, your name, and that of Peter Parker, and others who now stand faithful and true in this blessed cause, will be held in grateful remembrance.

AFRICAN GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS.

The following correspondence was read at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, January 16th, 1877, and, on the suggestion of Rev. S. Iraneus Prime, D. D., was directed to be published:

Letter from the Belgian Minister.

OLD ORCHARD BEACH HOUSE, MAINE, August 21, 1876.

MY DEAR MR. LATROBE: I have just received a telegram from Brussels, by which the King directs me to invite you to assist at the African Geographical Conference which his Majesty personally has convened there for the 11th of September next. I have spoken to you already on the subject, and I wrote to the King afterwards. As I told you, a few prominent persons interested in African matters have been invited by his Majesty to come and stay in Brussels as his guests during the conference. I send you extracts from the letter I received from the King to give you a more complete idea of the conference and its special object. I can assure you it will give the King very great pleasure to see you there as his guest, and I hope you will be able to go. Your "Colonization Society" must be much interested in the subject, and might be made a strong basis of operations, at any rate a point of much interest for the conference. Pray send me a line and tell me what you decide. "*Le temps presse.*" I shall be here until the end of the month, and then back to Newport, if not sooner.

I am, my dear Mr. Latrobe, yours, very truly,

MAURICE DELFOSSE.

INVITATION OF KING LEOPOLD.

[*Extracts—Translation.*]

“In nearly every country the liveliest interest is taken in the geographical discoveries made in Central Africa.

“Numerous expeditions fostered by private subscriptions, proving the desire to arrive at important results, have been undertaken and are in progress in Africa. The English, Americans, Germans, Italians, and French have taken part, in different ways, in this generous movement in the interests of civilization and Christianity—to abolish the slave trade, to disperse the ignorance still prevailing in regard to this part of the world, to become acquainted with its resources, which would seem to be immense, and, in a word, to pour upon it the treasures of civilization. Such is the purpose of a modern crusade, worthy of the age. Until now everything that has been done in this direction has been without concert, and it would seem to be wise and desirable that those who have the same object in view should confer together, agree upon a base of operations, determine upon the regions to be explored, so as to avoid, as far as possible, going over the same ground twice.

“On the 11th of September, 1876, there will assemble at Brussels the presidents of the principal Geographical Societies of Europe and others who, by their travels, their studies, their philanthropic sentiments and their spirit of charity, have been the most identified with the efforts already made to introduce civilization into Africa.

“The meeting will consist of some twenty persons who have accepted my invitation, forming a congress, the object of which will be to discuss the present condition of Africa, the results already obtained, and those which remain to be accomplished. The propriety of establishing a central and international committee to explain to the public the definite object in view, and to provide the means of carrying it out, appealing to the philanthropic sentiments and the liberality already so abundantly manifested.

“I would be highly pleased to see the United States represented at the conference by one or two distinguished men. Speak to them of the proposed conference at Brussels, and say what pleasure I will have in receiving them as my guests.

“The conference at Brussels will have no political character. Interested myself in Africa, I offer the hospitality of Brussels, in hotels prepared for the purpose, to those who will take part with me in the proceedings of the 11th of September.

“I know that distance does not stop Americans; I know their sympathy for the free institutions of our country; I admire on my part their great nation, and I will be happy to meet them on our neutral soil to fraternize with the geographers of Europe and to labor for the well being of a continent that civilization ought to metamorphose.”

Letter from the Belgian Minister.

OLD ORCHARD BEACH HOUSE, August 24, 1876.

MY DEAR MR. LATROBE: I am delighted to learn, through your note this morning received, that there is some chance of your going to Brussels on the invitation the King directed me to tender you. I have just heard that the President of the Geographical Society of New York, Judge Daly, who has also been invited, will *not* be able to go, on account of his judicial duties, having to hold court in September, and there being no one to take his place this would leave America unrepresented if you

should not go, and the King, I know, would regret it extremely. I trust you will be able to leave. You are the *very man* for the work and for the occasion. Take all the time you may require to come to a favorable decision.

Yours, very truly,

MAURICE DELFOSSE.

Letter from President Latrobe.

MY DEAR MR. DELFOSSE: Since I wrote to you on Tuesday, asking time before I replied definitely to the invitation with which I have been honored by the King of Belgium, I have kept the mail and the telegraph busy for the purpose of ascertaining whether it was possible for me to accept it, consistently with professional and other engagements; but I am truly sorry to say that in the short time that would intervene between this and the 30th instant, which is the latest day at which I could sail to be in season for the proposed meeting on the 11th of September, I have found it impossible. And here I might close my letter with the expression of my profound regret, were it not proper that I should ask you to convey to his Majesty the King of Belgium my deep sense of the great and most flattering compliment which he has paid me. The only object to which, for now more than half a century, I have devoted myself, outside of my profession of the law, has been Africa. I imbibed my interest in it from the distinguished gentleman with whom I studied, the late General Harper, one of the founders of the Colonization Society. I used the skill which I had acquired as a draughtsman at West Point to prepare the first map of Liberia that was ever engraved. The name of Liberia was the result of a conversation between General Harper and myself, who gave alternately names to the places which the maps presented. Aiding General Harper, I prepared the instructions which Abel Hurd carried with him when he went to Liberia at General Harper's expense, directed to journey westward until he struck the Niger, which he was to follow to the sea, solving in that manner the problem of its mouth. He died before he could carry out the plan which was at a later date pursued by the Landers with success. Vessel load after vessel load of emigrants have I superintended the embarkation of, and the settlement made by the State of Maryland at Cape Palmas was under my direction, even the preparation of the Code for its government. And thus I became, after many years of labor for Africa, the *President of the National Society*. Matters that I mention now in no spirit of egotism, but to justify your suggestion of me to his Majesty, to which I well know I am indebted for the compliment he has paid me. I mention them, too, that you may understand how strong must be the considerations that induce me to decline this most flattering invitation. I have always believed that the day would come when two races that will not intermarry must separate, *if both are free*; and I have advocated African colonization as affording a refuge for the weaker, when the alternative became apparent of emigration or extirpation; not extirpation by the sword, but by a dwindling away under the force of circumstances that neither are competent to control. With me this has been axiomatic; and fifty years' observation has confirmed the truth of the theory which made me originally a colonizationist. I have looked upon Liberia as this place of refuge. Liberia, in its turn, I have regarded as an entering place into the continent, and its people as the agents who were to produce the metamorphosis which his Majesty refers to in the admirable exposition which his letter to you contains of the motives that actuate him, and the plans he has in view. If this

emigration shall never take place, so as to give America a homogeneous white population, Liberia will have fulfilled a grand destiny as the noblest missionary enterprise that the world has ever known. A white man here and there dotted over Africa can produce but little result in the way of Christianizing and civilizing it; but an influx of hundreds, of thousands, of millions even, of intelligent educated negroes, carrying with them knowledge, science, art, and religion, has been prepared, and must one day take place. Nor is this speculation only. Since the late war emancipated the negroes of the United States, the Society I represent has sent more emigrants to Liberia than in the same number of years before; and at this very moment there are six thousand applicants for a passage which the Society has no means to send. Thinking thus of Africa, and having kept myself informed of all that has been done, from Park down to Stanley, it is very painful to me that I thus lose the opportunity that will not occur again of striking a blow in her cause; for it is the cause of Africa and its millions, and not colonization, now that Liberia is a nation among the nations, which I have at heart. The subject, my dear sir, is inexhaustible, and I have already made my letter too long. I must close it by again requesting you to convey to his Majesty, the King of Belgium, my sense of the compliment he has paid me, and to receive for yourself the assurance of my personal esteem and great regard.

JNO. H. B. LATROBE.

NEWPORT, R. I., *August 24, 1876.*

His Excellency, MAURICE DELFOSSE.

Letter from the Belgian Minister.

BELGIAN LEGATION, 1714 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,
WASHINGTON, *November 14, 1876.*

MY DEAR MR. LATROBE: I am directed to tell you the King read with much interest your remarks on Africa and Africans, (in your letter to me,) and regrets all the more for it your not having been able to go to Brussels on the invitation I communicated to you last summer. It is hoped that the Association will be more fortunate in that respect at some future day.

I enclose some documents concerning the proceedings of the late Conference in September last. They will no doubt interest you. I trust the President of the Geographical Society of New York, Chief Justice C. P. Daly, will succeed in forming a strong National committee in this country, and that you will be willing, when the opportunity arises, to lend a helping hand and your personal co-operation to that object and the work of the Association.

Yours, very truly,

MAURICE DELFOSSE.